

military option to evict the militants from Bhutan. India and Bhutan remain in a constant touch to find a solution to this issue and are cooperating with each other in this regard.

(b) A series of measures have been taken to stop cross border crimes in the North East. These include, *inter alia*, construction of border roads, border fencing, raising of additional battalions of Border Security Force, reduction of gaps between border outposts, intensification of patrolling both on the land and the riverine border, increase in the number of outposts towers, provision of surveillance equipments including night vision devices etc.

(c) Surveillance has been stepped up on the Indo-Bhutan border and the situation is monitored on a regular basis.

Torture of Dalits

1908. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the incidents in which the truck driver and others belonging to dalit classes were recently tortured by the Bihar and U.P. Government Ministers and if so, the results of the inquiries; and

(b) what steps have been and are being taken to effectively prevent continuing atrocities by those in power on the dalits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) Two incidents of torture of truck drivers—one in Bihar and the other in Uttar Pradesh by the Ministers in State Governments have come to notice through newspaper reports. These two cases are isolated instances, and cannot be construed as continuing atrocities on Dalits by those in power.

'Public Order' and 'Police' are State Subjects as per the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India and as such, the registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crimes are primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Government

of India has been advising the State Governments, from time to time, to give more focussed attention for improving administration of criminal justice system to ensure prevention of atrocities against Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other vulnerable sections of the society.

Insurgency problem in North-East

1909. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken by Government to recognise the insurgency problem of North-Eastern States as a national problem like that of Jammu and Kashmir;
- (b) whether Government are satisfied with the present arrangement of deployment of Indian Army to combat the insurgency in North-East; and
- (c) whether Government are initiating a meaningful dialogue with the insurgent groups of North-Eastern States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) The Government of India recognises that the militancy problem of North Eastern States has to be fought by both the Central and State Governments together.

- (b) According to the Ministry of Defence, the level of deployment of army is considered to be adequate for management of counter insurgency operations.
- (c) Government of India are already in dialogue with the NSCN(I/M) and the Bodo Liberation Tiger. Government is committed to restoration of peace and has extended an invitation to all those who have strayed from the paths of togetherness to come forward for talks within the four corners of our constitution.